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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/756,477	01/08/2001	David Ford	01,009	7304

24030 7590 05/23/2002

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KANSAS CITY, MO 64105

EXAMINER

RAJGURU, UMAKANT K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1711

7

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

T-D-7

Office Action Summary

Application No.

Applicant(s)

Examiner

Group Art Unit

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Response

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a response be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for response specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a response within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for response is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to respond within the set or extended period for response will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Mar 13, 2002 (paper no 5)
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) 8-12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
 - ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) 4
- ☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

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1. Applicant's election with traverse of group I, claims 1-7 in Paper No. 6 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the examiner has failed to support the assertion that the claimed process can be useful to make a materially different product and that the examination of all claims will require similar searches. This is not found persuasive because it is already stated in earlier office action paper no. 5, page 2 that the process can be used to make cover for table tops, cover for chair-seats etc. These products are different from door skin. A search for door skin is quite different from that for a process (to make door skin).

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Claims 1-7 are under examination.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 7 is vague in not specifying if the percentages recited, are by weight or by volume.

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

a person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

*withdrawn
Feb 03, 2003*

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6. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chen (U.S.P. 5,644,870).

*withdrawn
02/03/2003*

(Chen is of record on PTO-1449, paper no. 4).

Chen discloses compression molded door assembly which is comprised of two door skins (abstract; col. 2, lines 45-54). A thermoplastic material can be used to make such skin (col. 3, lines 66-67).

Claim 1 therefore lacks novelty.

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) a patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen (U.S.P. 5,644,870) in view of Sasaki et al (U.S.P. 6,313,184) and Plummer et al (U.S.P. 5,985,429).

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Disclosure of Chen is presented earlier in short.

MR Chen does not mention polypropylene, high impact polystyrene, glass fibers and wood fibers.

Sasaki discloses molded articles made from copolymers of propylene. Articles include a door panel and a door trim (col. 10, lines 46-47). Polystyrene can be mixed with the copolymers of propylene (col. 6, line 56).

Plummer discloses a composition comprising a polymer, a short and a long fiber composite (abstract). High impact polystyrene is a suitable polymer (col. 7, line 18). Suitable fibers include glass fibers and wood fibers (col. 8, lines 61-64). Amount of fibers is from 25 to 50% by wt (col. 9, lines 14-19).

Therefore it would have been obvious to use polypropylene and/or high impact polystyrene as the polymer to make the door of Chen since both these polymers are shown to be equally suitable for that purpose. It would also have been obvious to use the wood fibers for reinforcement in the door of Chen since wood fibers are proved (by Plummer) to be equivalent to glass fibers for reinforcement and also they are cheaper than glass fibers.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to U.K. Rajguru whose telephone number is (703) 308-3224. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9:30 AM to 6 PM.

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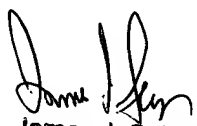
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James J. Seidleck, can be reached on (703) 308-2462. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9310 or 9311.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Rajguru/LR/dh

May 15, 2002

May 17, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'UKR'.

James J. Seidleck
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700